

FY 2000-2001 Great Lakes Priorities and Funding Guidance

Including FY 2000-2001 Great Lakes Priorities and GLNPO's annual Request for Preproposals.



Lake Michigan Beach at Petosky Michigan.

FY 2000 - 2001 Great Lakes Priorities and Funding Guidance

USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) invites States, Tribes, and our other partners to compete for \$3.07 million in targeted assistance for projects in the areas of:

- Contaminated Sediments
- Invasive Species
- Pollution Prevention and Reduction
- Emerging Issues
- Ecological (Habitat) Protection and Restoration

The Deadline for Submissions is February 18, 2000.

We request that you Register with us now (<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2000guid/register.html>), so that we can update you on our funding process, any changed deadlines, and work we are doing to allow applicants to apply on-line. There are 4 steps you must take to submit a Preproposal:

1. Get the free PSS2000 software (<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/pss2000.html>)
2. Read and follow instructions.
3. Enter and edit your Preproposal submission.
4. Complete and submit your Preproposal.

- Consider collaboration with prospective partners as you begin development of your Preproposals.
- View models of previous successful Preproposals: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2000guid/index.html>
- Consider summaries of projects GLNPO has previously funded: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/qlf.html>

Feel free to contact Michael Russ (russ.michael@epa.gov / 312-886-4013) with questions.

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FY 2000 - 2001 Great Lakes Priorities and Funding Guidance

I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Introduction. This Great Lakes Priorities and Funding Guidance (Funding Guidance) is a resource to assist the network of State, Tribal, Federal, and non-governmental organizations which together constitute the Great Lakes program. It identifies joint environmental priorities of the governmental partners of the Great Lakes Program. With this document, the Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("USEPA" or the "Agency") also describes its funding process and solicits Preproposals for projects to be awarded from Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 funds. Appendix 3 of this document identifies the contacts who can best provide additional information about USEPA's Great Lakes priorities. Information about other Federal funding opportunities, including the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Federal Highway Administration, pertaining to Great Lakes priorities and key contacts for those programs is available at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/fundoptn.html>¹

Purpose. The Great Lakes Program brings together Federal, state, tribal, local, and non-governmental partners in an integrated, ecosystem approach to protect, maintain, and restore the chemical, biological, and physical integrity of the Great Lakes. The Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) with Canada provide the basis for our international efforts to manage this shared resource. Additional responsibilities are defined in Section 118 of the Clean Water Act, Section 112 of the Clean Air Act Amendments, and the Great Lakes Critical Programs Act of 1990.

By publishing the Great Lakes Priorities and Funding Guidance each year, GLNPO seeks to:

- C implement that mission by fostering development of appropriate projects.
- C achieve the objectives of the 1992 Great Lakes 5-Year Strategy.
- C maximize the opportunity for developing joint partnerships between agencies and non-governmental organizations to achieve common environmental objectives.
- C provide program and funding guidance such that State and Tribal agencies are able to efficiently prepare grant proposals in concert with other program planning activities.
- C identify joint priorities so that Great Lakes Program partners can use them in internal planning and so that grant proposals can be targeted at opportunities for the most significant environmental improvement.
- C reduce the administrative burden associated with competing for individual project grants at various, unpredictable times throughout the funding cycle.

The Great Lakes Priorities and Funding Guidance does not replace general USEPA National guidance or guidance developed by the Regional Program Offices. Rather, it is a supplement to annual planning processes and should be used to facilitate planning Great Lakes activities ***in concert with*** other program planning efforts. The Great Lakes Funding Guidance is also intended to provide linkages among USEPA and other Federal Great Lakes programs.

¹This site contains information about many funding opportunities. In January, we propose to update the site with an additional chart depicting Great Lakes Federal funding opportunities.

II. GENERAL GREAT LAKES PRIORITIES

The Great Lakes Basin is home to 33 million people, including more than one-tenth of the population of the United States. It contains some of the world's largest concentrations of industrial capacity; agricultural land; forests; dunes; wetlands; and 141 globally rare plant and animal species. The Lakes themselves constitute the largest system of fresh, surface water on earth, containing 20% of the world's supply. They are sensitive to a range of pollutant sources, including runoff, waste, industry discharges, and disposal leachate. Their size increases their vulnerability to atmospheric deposition. Pollutants bioaccumulate and are retained in the system for decades - outflows are less than 1 % annually and water retention ranges from 2.6 years in Lake Erie to 191 years in Lake Superior.

Great Lakes Program partners are united in their efforts, as set forth in the U.S./Canada Water Quality Agreement, to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem. This mission is supported through:

- Reducing toxic substances, with an emphasis on persistent, bioaccumulative substances.
- Protecting and restoring vital habitats.
- Protecting biological integrity; restoring and maintaining diverse living populations.

To achieve those objectives, a nested structure of Great Lakes activities is managed and implemented by an alliance of Federal, State, Tribal, and non-governmental agencies. This structure fosters cross-program and cross-agency integration of programs at a variety of scales; from Areas of Concern to issues of lakewide and those of basinwide concern. Thus, the Great Lakes priorities include a variety of tools and focuses, including:

A. Toxics Reduction

- < **Great Lakes Water Quality Guidance.** All Great Lakes States have submitted rules packages and associated materials pursuant to the requirements of the Critical Programs Act (CWA Section 118) and the Great Lakes Water Quality Guidance (40 CFR 132). *Priority Activity: Completion of USEPA reviews of these materials, in order to assess whether or not the States' programs are as protective as the Guidance.*
- < **Binational Toxics Strategy.** The Strategy, a ground breaking international toxics reduction effort, targets a common set of persistent, toxic substances for reduction and virtual elimination from the Great Lakes. It focuses on pollution prevention efforts, using voluntary and regulatory tools to achieve reductions, and contains reduction challenges for a targeted set of substances, e.g., mercury, PCBs, dioxins/furans, and certain canceled pesticides. Toxic reductions are being achieved through FY 1999 commitments made by DaimlerChrysler and Ford to eliminate PCB containing electrical equipment at their facilities, in North America and globally, respectively, and by Olin Corporation to achieve a goal of zero discharge of mercury at their chlor-alkali facilities. Noteworthy progress on mercury reduction has also been made under existing agreements with the American Hospital Association, three Northwest Indiana steel mills, and the Chlorine Institute. *Priority Activities: Each targeted substance will be addressed at the appropriate phase of an analytical framework which consists of information gathering, analysis of current regulations/initiatives, identification of options, and implementing reduction actions.*
- < **Air Toxics.** Regional work continues with the States, the Office of Air and Radiation, the Office of Research and Development, GLNPO, and the Office of Water on a dual track approach to address the air pathway of toxic pollutants entering the Great Lakes ecosystem.

The first track seeks emission reductions through voluntary programs, such as the Binational Toxics Strategy, and regulatory programs, such as development of technology-based emission standards for air toxics (i.e. MACT standards). *Associated priorities include delegating of authority of Clean Air Act Title III activities to the Region 5 States, allowing the States to implement and enforce the MACT standards; increasing compliance activity on a selection MACT standards; and working with the States and OAR to develop and implement risk-based initiatives including the Urban Air Toxics Strategy and the residual risk program.*

Work also continues along a second track to develop multi-media strategies and studies under the Great Waters atmospheric deposition program, in order to ensure continued progress in reducing sources and loadings of atmospheric deposition to the Great Waters, and to further reduce the environmental and public health effects. These studies rely on a balanced effort of emission inventory development, deposition modeling, and ambient monitoring to provide input to a multi-media mass balance model which will assess the need for further emission reductions. The Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study and the Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load Air Deposition Pilot Projects are examples of ongoing multi-media initiatives addressing air toxics. Much of the activities concern the atmospheric deposition of mercury to lakes and land, a national priority and a global concern. *Associated priorities include:*

- * ***Inventory and Monitor.*** *Assist States in (i) developing the Great Lakes Regional Air Toxics Emissions Inventory to define and regulate sources, evaluate control technologies and reduce atmospheric deposition of toxic pollutants to the Great Lakes and other inland lakes and (ii) monitoring of air toxics trends.*
- * ***Toxics Modeling.*** *Continue research on toxic pollutant modeling in order to better understand the fate and cycling of toxic pollutants through the Great Lakes ecosystem and enhance modeling capabilities throughout the Great Lakes Basin. In particular, force the computation linkages between atmospheric models and water-based models to simplify and enhance the prediction of relative loadings of contaminants from air and water to a given waterbody.*
- * ***Long Range Transport.*** *Assess and identify long-range transport of substances from sources outside of the Great Lakes per the Great Waters Report.*
- * ***Control Technologies.*** *Further investigate the development of cost-effective control technologies for mercury as well as other pollutants (both end-of-pipe controls and pollution prevention options).*

- < ***Contaminated Sediments.*** *Polluted sediments are the largest major source of contaminants to the Great Lakes food chain - over 2,000 miles (40%) of the shoreline are considered impaired because of sediment contamination. The Region 5 sediment inventory contains 346 contaminated sediment sites. Fish consumption advisories remain in place throughout the Great Lakes and many inland lakes. Contaminated sediments also cause restrictions and delays in dredging of navigable waterways, which in turn can negatively affect local and regional economies. Although over 1 million cubic yards of Great Lakes sediments were remediated over the past 2 years, many times that amount must still be addressed. Contaminated sediments must be cleaned up - before these sediments move downstream or into open waters, which makes them inaccessible and cleanup impossible. Associated priorities include: (i) provide communities with technical assistance, especially in Areas of Concern, to clean up contaminated sediments in their rivers and harbors through application of regulatory authorities and cooperative approaches including on-the-ground cleanup, remedial design, and field work and assessment; (ii) prioritize Regional sediment sites and develop a Regional Sediments database; and (iii) improve the process for managing dredged materials from navigable waterways.*

B. Ecological (Habitat) Protection and Restoration. Much of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem has been permanently altered by anthropogenic stressors, but viable remnants of most of the biological components remain. Habitat priorities are focused on efforts to:

- < *Protect ecosystems possessing ecological importance, ecological integrity, bio-diversity, or rare ecological occurrences from adverse impacts of anthropogenic stressors.*
- < *Restore physical processes, ecological structures, and functions to formerly degraded ecosystems that have the potential to be ecologically significant.*

C. Ecosystem tools and approaches, addressing both toxics and habitat:

- < **Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs).** USEPA and its partners are working to restore and protect the biological, chemical, and physical integrity of the Great Lakes. Priorities being addressed through lake management teams for each of the Lakes include:
 - * **Lake Michigan.** The basin contains the Nation's third largest population center, the world's largest concentration of pulp and paper mills, 40 percent of the Nation's steel mills, and substantial fruit and grain production. While water quality at Lake Michigan has improved, contamination still exists. Nonpoint source runoff, air deposition, and large contaminated sediment sites are main sources of the lake's contamination. Fish advisories and beach closings are still necessary. Habitat destruction, developmental pressures, invasive species, and food chain disruption present significant challenges. *Priority Activities: Engaging public and private entities to implement "LaMP 2000" activities to preserve and restore Lake Michigan's ecosystem. LaMP 2000 will include goals; ecosystem status and trends; pollutant causes, sources, and pathways; and results from the Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study and from a stakeholder comparative risk exercise. The ecosystem plan will include indicators and a draft monitoring plan and human health information integrated into the plan of proposed actions and milestones.*²
 - * **Lake Ontario.** There have been significant improvements since the 1960s and 1970s, when colonial waterbirds experienced nearly total reproductive failures due to high levels of toxic contaminants in the food chain. Following actions to ban and control contaminants entering the Great Lakes and GLWQA renewal, levels of toxic contaminants have decreased significantly, and colonial waterbird populations have overcome most of the recognized contaminant-induced impacts of 25 years ago (i.e., their eggshells show normal thickness, they are reproducing normally, and most population levels are stable or increasing). However, bioaccumulative toxics persist in sediment, water, and biota at levels of concern for some fish species and for higher order predators. *Priority Activities: The Stage I (problem definition) LaMP was finalized in May, 1998. The LaMP workgroup will work with its partners to implement the binational workplan laid out in the Stage I document, towards the development of a draft LaMP 2000 document. Top priority will be given to activities that lead to the (i) identification of inputs of LaMP critical pollutants; measurement of critical pollutant loadings in tributaries and wastewater pollutants; and (iii) protection and restoration of significant nearshore, shallow water, tributary, wetland, or upland habitats in the Lake Ontario Basin. Other priority items identified in the binational workplan include enhancing existing mass balance models, facilitating cooperative lakewide monitoring, refining beneficial use impairment assessments, and finalizing ecosystems objectives and indicators for the Lake.*

² Internet sites provide additional information on Lake Michigan: Sensitive Areas (www.epa.gov/lakemich); Monitoring Coordinating Council (www.wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc/index.html); Forum (www.lkmichiganforum.org); and Mass Balance (www.epa.gov/glnpo/lmmb).

- * **Lake Superior.** The largest fresh-water lake in the world by surface area, the lake basin is sparsely populated and relatively pristine. Through the Binational Program's Zero Discharge Demonstration Program, the Lake Superior community will work with local industry and communities to reduce and eventually eliminate all discharges of targeted toxic substances to the Superior Basin. *Priority Activities: Completion of the LaMP 2000 Document by April 2000, which will include both chemical and ecosystem reduction strategies for the Lake Superior Basin. The ecosystem components will include information and strategies relating to habitat, terrestrial/wildlife, sustainability, aquatics, and human health. Of particular importance will be implementation activities and projects which carry out the strategies specifically outlined in the LaMP 2000 document. These will include activities and projects to prevent, reduce, and/or remediate impaired uses by continuing implementation of the zero discharge demonstration, special protection designations, the development of an integrated monitoring plan, and protection and restoration of important habitat.*
- * **Lake Erie.** The smallest, warmest, shallowest, and most biologically productive Great lake supports major industrial, recreational, and fishing uses. Stresses from urbanization, agricultural use, and invasive species impact habitat and threaten food sources. *Priority Activities: (i) Critical Pollutants: Complete action plans for further reductions in PCBs and mercury levels and support action plan implementation, including pollution prevention efforts, sediment remediation, enforcement-compliance assistance, and support for RAP activities addressing PCBs and mercury. (ii) Habitat Protection/ Restoration: Complete action plans and support their implementation, including support for RAP activities addressing habitat. (iii) Problem Definition: Complete the development of ecosystem objectives and indicators, finalize beneficial use impairment assessments, and complete pollutant sources and loads analysis, in order to further develop and implement action plans to protect/restore the beneficial uses of Lake Erie. Further develop analysis of: human health impacts from Lake Erie (beach closings/fish advisories), long-range transport of pollutants, invasive species, use/impact of pesticides, nitrates trends/impacts, impacts of climate change, and impacts of water level changes. (iv) Public Involvement: Continue to support an active Public Forum, as well as other public involvement/outreach activities in the Lake Erie basin.*
- * **Lake Huron.** The third largest Lake by volume has the largest lakeshore (extending 3,827 miles), and is characterized by shallow, sandy beaches and the rocky shores of Georgian Bay. Lake Huron's drainage area, which covers parts of Michigan and Ontario, is relatively large compared to the other Great Lakes. Because of the lesser degree of development in the watershed, environmental issues in Lake Huron are focused around reducing habitat impairment and/or destruction, as well as addressing the leveling-off of declines of toxic contaminants. The Lake Huron Initiative, led by Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and partially funded through a cooperative agreement with GLNPO, has identified issues and efforts toward ensuring a sustainable Lake Huron watershed. *Priority Activities: Protecting key habitat, especially coastal wetlands, spawning reefs, and island habitat; prioritization of non-point source areas for funding through Section 319 and Clean Michigan Initiative funds; identification of dam removal demonstration projects to increase available fish habitat; the restoration of the Saginaw Bay ecosystem, including environmental dredging, non-point source controls, and habitat restoration; sea lamprey control, especially in St. Mary's River; support of clean-up efforts of Lake Huron tributaries, including AOCs; support of enforcement/compliance efforts to ensure reductions in atmospheric deposition; and the promotion of pollution prevention throughout the watershed.*

< **AOCs and Special Places.** Special attention is placed on geographic areas where beneficial use of water or biota is adversely affected or where environmental criteria are exceeded to the extent that use impairment exists or is likely to exist. The purpose of establishing "Areas of Concern" (AOCs) is to encourage jurisdictions to form partnerships to rehabilitate these acute, localized problem areas and to restore their beneficial uses.

* *Through ecosystem-based efforts, reduce toxic substances and protect/restore beneficial uses in the AOCs through community-based environmental protection. In supporting such efforts the Agency aims to enhance public communication and focus and coordinate implementation of all relevant Federal, State, and local media programs.*

* *Target multi-media regulatory and non-regulatory actions to achieve risk-based environmental improvements in and around the Niagara River, Northwest Indiana, Greater Chicago, Southeast Michigan, Northeast Ohio, and on Tribal Lands.*

* *Promote and support brownfields initiatives, including information dissemination to assist brownfields redevelopment in AOC communities.*

D. Support Federal-State-Tribal Partnership and Integration

< *Develop the new Great Lakes Strategy, expanding the participation of partners and forging linkages with the Government Performance and Results Act.*

< *Improve State and Tribal capability to address Great Lakes environmental problems through a cross-program approach based on environmental information.*

< *Initiate coordinated post-State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) indicator development, monitoring, information management, and reporting*

< *Provide broad access (including Federal and State agencies) to a common environmental database and analytical tools, facilitating Federal/State/Tribal information exchange.*

III. GLNPO ACTIVITIES AND FUNDING

General Information. Each Fall, mid-level environmental managers from Great Lakes State, Tribal, and Federal programs meet in a Great Lakes Planning Meeting to discuss Great Lakes priorities and the criteria for projects to be funded by GLNPO in the upcoming year. That information is used in developing a Great Lakes Funding Guidance which is then used in a broad solicitation of Preproposals through direct mailings, notification in the Federal Register, and Internet posting and announcements. Preproposals are then evaluated and successful applicants are asked to submit full proposals for their projects. Final decisions are based on the full proposals.

General funding priorities and targets for this Great Lakes Funding Guidance were derived from USEPA's Congressionally approved budget. Development of that budget began in 1998. Consequently, in order to have a timely influence on the Federal budget process, participants in this year's Great Lakes Planning Meeting discussed Great Lakes priorities for FY 2002.

GLNPO has provided funding for some 475 projects totaling \$49 million between 1993 and 1999. All of these projects, including those selected in FY 1999, are summarized at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/>.

FY 1999 Recap. In FY 1999, GLNPO notified potential applicants that it was seeking Preproposals for a total of \$3.8 million in the priority areas of: Contaminated Sediments; Habitat Protection and Restoration; Pollution Prevention; Assessment/Indicators; Invasive Species; and Emerging Issues. In response, 128 applicants submitted 230 Preproposals, requesting \$30.2 million in assistance.

Of the Preproposals submitted, 23% were "successful³." Some good projects which GLNPO could process were forwarded to other organizations for their consideration. Successful applicants were asked to submit full proposals for 56 projects totaling \$3.6 million. GLNPO offered assistance for each of these projects for which the applicant requested funding.

FY 2000-2001 Assistance Process. With this Great Lakes Funding Guidance, GLNPO is again making funding available for innovative projects furthering protection and clean up of the Great Lakes ecosystem. We are looking for projects in the areas of Contaminated Sediments, Pollution Prevention and Reduction (pursuant to the Binational Toxics Strategy), Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Restoration, Invasive Species, and Emerging Issues. Project selection criteria for all areas include consideration of: (i) Rationale/Relevance/Bias for Action, (ii) Scientific/Professional Merit, (iii) Innovativeness, (iv) Performance Capability, (v) Stakeholders, (vi) Geographic Scope, (vii) Dissemination of Results, (viii) Appropriate Budget, (ix) Leveraging, and (x) Availability of Other Funding Sources. We especially welcome projects which address environmental justice and those which have community-based support. Appendices 1 and 2 contain detailed application instructions and specific criteria for each funding area. Work under these awards would generally be done during FY 2001.

This Great Lakes Funding Guidance asks interested applicants to submit short Preproposals for Great Lakes projects. We request that Preproposals be developed and submitted via the Internet. Interested applicants should begin the application process from <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2000guid/index.html>.

GLNPO will screen Preproposals upon receipt to ensure they qualify under the Appendix 2 criteria. Reviewers internal and external to USEPA will also use those criteria to evaluate the remaining Preproposals. Evaluations will take into account recommendations on specific needs and priorities of geographic areas within the Great Lakes, particularly those of Lakewide Management Plans for Lakes Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior and their included geographic initiatives such as the Remedial Action Plans for Areas of Concern (see the identified priorities in Attachment 2 criteria). To obtain additional information about those needs and priorities, applicants are encouraged to consult with applicable USEPA staff in GLNPO and in Regions 2, 3, and 5. (See Appendix 3 for contact information.)

Applicants will be notified as to whether they should subsequently submit full Assistance Application Packages (full Proposals). Final funding decisions will be based upon the full Proposals.

Schedule. The schedule for the remainder of this FY 2000 funding cycle is:

Deadline for Submission of Preproposals	February 18
Preproposal Reviews (internal and external)	through May 10
Applicants Notified	by May 12
Full Proposals due	through July 15
Final Decisions/Awards	May-September 30

³ The rate was lower than that for FY1998 (27%), but in line with the FY1997 rate of 22%.

Toxics Reduction, Biodiversity, and Emerging Issues. The October, 1999 Great Lakes Planning Meeting verified the importance of strategically focusing on toxics reduction and biodiversity. For FY 2000-2001, GLNPO is targeting \$3.04 million⁴ in assistance to States, Tribes, and our other partners for projects implementing these priorities. Targets are:

Toxics Reduction	\$2.12 Million
- Contaminated Sediments (\$1.45 million)	
- Pollution Prevention and Reduction - BNS (\$670 thousand)	
Biodiversity	\$700 Thousand
- Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Restoration (\$400 thousand)	
- Invasive Species (\$300 thousand)	
Emerging Issues	\$220 Thousand

Participants in the October, 1999 Great Lakes Planning Meeting confirmed the importance of GLNPO addressing Invasive Species and Emerging Issues. Congressionally directed funding in the USEPA budget makes that possible. See Appendices 1 and 2 for specific instructions and criteria regarding GLNPO's request for Preproposals. Please note our request that Applicants submit Preproposals electronically on the Internet beginning from <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2000guid/index.html>.

Other GLNPO Programs. GLNPO is actively involved in other program areas in addition to the solicitations previously described. In the areas referenced below, we will coordinate at the Federal, State, Tribal, and local levels to ensure that these projects and resources are appropriately targeted to achieve mutual objectives. Staff are also available for consultation in these areas.

- * **Lake ecosystem indicators.** Through atmospheric deposition monitoring and open lake monitoring in each Great Lake for toxicant and nutrient loadings and concentrations (using EPA's research vessels), GLNPO will provide trend and baseline data to support and target remedial efforts and measure environmental progress. GLNPO and EPA's Office of Research and Development will interpret and report information about Lake Michigan air, water, sediments, and biota through the Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study (LMMB), thus enabling the Agency and its partners to target further pollutant reductions. The joint GLNPO/Canadian atmospheric deposition network (including air monitoring stations on each Great Lake) will provide trend and baseline data to support and target remedial efforts and measure environmental progress under Lakewide Management Plans. In October 2000, GLNPO, with its Canadian counterparts, will report on environmental indicators in the biennial State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC). SOLEC brings together representatives of the public and private sectors to facilitate risk- and science-based decision-making. Additional information is available from Paul Horvatin (312-353-3612), Chief of GLNPO's Monitoring, Indicators, and Reporting Branch.
- * **Shared Ship Time.** The USEPA, GLNPO ship, the R/V Lake Guardian will be conducting surveys of all the lakes this year. If your research requires Great Lakes sampling that is compatible with our survey schedule and requires only small additions of time to the surveys, please contact David Rockwell, 312-252-1371 to discuss how we may be able to accommodate your needs. The tentative schedule for the R/V Lake

⁴*Targets are subject to change for various reasons, including Congressional and Agency action such as development and approval of annual operating plans.*

Guardian can be found at: www.epa.gov/glnpo/guard/schedule_2000.html

- * **Manage and provide public access to Great Lakes data.** EPA's integrated Great Lakes information system, developed by GLNPO and its State and Federal partners, will deliver LMMB, and other, scientifically sound, easily accessible environmental information to decision makers and the public by traditional means and via the Internet. GLNPO will pilot techniques to provide public access to LMMB data via the Internet. Additional information is available from Pranas Pranckevicius (312-353-3437), leader of GLNPO's Information Management Team.
- * **Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium.** GLNPO is issuing a separate Request for Proposals (RFP) from institutions/organizations representing a binational, multi-disciplinary, broad-based consortium of Great Lakes wetland scientists to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with GLNPO. The expected funding level will be \$400,000, with additional funding anticipated in subsequent years. The ultimate goal of the work to be accomplished under the RFP will be an implementable, long-term program, based on SOLEC Coastal Wetlands and related indicators, that monitors Great Lakes coastal wetlands consistently and allows a scientifically-sound assessment of their ecological integrity. The RFP will be available in January from the GLNPO funding page (<http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/glf.html>). Additional information is available from Duane Heaton (312-886-6399).
- * **Partner Capacity-Building.** GLNPO is exploring possibilities for grants through USEPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, & Watersheds which would support capacity-building of existing or new watershed partnerships. Contact Janet Pawlukiewicz at 202-260-9194 for additional information.

Application Instructions for GLNPO Preproposals

February 18, 2000 Deadline

GLNPO requests submission of Preproposals for projects meeting the criteria in Appendix 2. Following evaluations, full proposals will be requested from selected applicants. Final decisions will be based on the full proposals.

Developing Preproposals. We request that Preproposals be developed using the GLNPO Preproposal Submission System (PSS2000) available from: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/pss2000.html>. Please read the instructions for getting started and for using PSS2000. We encourage you to call Tony Kizlauskas (312-353-8773) or Pranas Prancevicius (312-353-3437) for technical assistance or if you do not have access to a PC. PSS2000 does not work on Macintosh computers.

Preproposal Format. PSS2000 generates the correct format. Examples of Preproposals for Sediments, Pollution Prevention and Reduction, and Habitat are available at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/glf.html>. Page 3 of this Appendix gives "line-by line" instructions for the required Preproposal components, allowing you to compose your work off line, then copy and paste it into the program. Preproposals should be about five pages.

Eligibility. Assistance (through grants, cooperative agreements, and interagency agreements) is available pursuant to Clean Water Act §104(b)(3) for activities in the Great Lakes Basin and in support of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. State pollution control agencies, interstate agencies, other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, and organizations are eligible; "for-profit" organizations are not.

Ineligible Activities. Under this solicitation, GLNPO will not fund: "construction grant" projects; basic research; land acquisition; education/outreach or conferences, unless they are a part of a larger project; or general operating support.

Additional Funds. Applicants seeking more funding under existing awards should go through this process.

Budget/Project Schedule Considerations.

- Non-Federal Match minimum: 5% of total project cost, which may be provided in cash or in-kind.
- Quality Assurance. *An approved Quality Assurance Project Plan is required prior to commencing environmental data collection* - extra funds and extra time may be needed for its development.

Project Clarification/Revisions. Applicants may be contacted for clarification and for the purpose of negotiating changes in project terms and amounts.

Confidentiality. We expect that applicants will only submit non-confidential information, since external reviewers assist in evaluations and since information will be published on the Internet. 40 CFR Part 2 discusses

"public information," including procedures for claiming confidentiality (40 C.F.R. §§ 2.203 and 2.204). Note that under Public Law No. 105-277, data produced under an award is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Evaluation. The evaluation process, described in the Funding Guidance, will include both general and specific criteria and consideration of priorities for geographic areas. Evaluations take into account an Applicant's ranking of its Preproposals and do not penalize Applicants for submitting multiple Preproposals.

Notification: We will confirm Preproposal receipt within: (i) one week for E-Mail submissions or (ii) two weeks for regular mail. Contact cabrera.evelyn@epa.gov if you do not receive a confirmation. Shortly after the Preproposal deadline, we will post Preproposal information (including Applicant, Title, and GLNPO identification number) at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/glf.html>. Applicants will be notified about submitting full proposals.

Examples of Preproposals for Sediments, Pollution Prevention and Reduction, and Habitat are available from: <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/modelsubmis.html>

Deadline for Preproposal Receipt: February 18, 1999.

Preproposal Submission. We encourage paperless submissions. Attach a copy of the data file, "APL2000.TPS," from the C:\PSS200subdirectory and e-mail it to: preproposal@glnpo.net. If sending a disk, include the "APL2000.tps" file, and mail it to:

USEPA - GLNPO (G-17J)
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590
Attention: Evelyn Cabrera

Multiple Preproposals. If your organization submits multiple Preproposals and chooses to rank them, please use PSS2000 to identify an overall contact (including phone, e-mail, and address) and send a single, coordinated submittal. Ranking information could, instead, be sent by e-mail to cabrera.evelyn@epa.gov. Individuals from the following organizations have offered to serve as their organizations' contacts.

- Illinois EPA: Toby Frevert (217-782-1654)
- Indiana DEM: Kathy Baird (219-881-6730)
- Indiana DNR: Laurie Rounds (317-570-1554)
- Michigan DEQ: Rick Hobrla (517-335-4173)
- Minnesota PCA: Pat Carey (218-723-4744)
- Minnesota DNR: Pat Collins (218-834-6612)

- New York DEC: Marna Gadoua (518-457-6610)
- Ohio EPA: Julie Letterhos (614-644-2871)
- Pennsylvania DEP: Kelly Burch (814-332-6816)
- Wisconsin DNR: Chuck Ledin (608-266-1956)
- GL Commission: Michael Donahue (734-665-9135)
- Argonne Nat'l. Lab: Roger Anderson (630-252-6406)
- TNC: Heather Potter (312-759-8017)

Explanation of General Criteria

The following general criteria will be used in evaluations of all Preproposals. Please see Appendix 2 for the specific criteria applicable in each area.

Rationale/Relevance/Bias for Action: Funding will be directed to proposals showing the most potential, whether direct or indirect, to protect the Great Lakes ecosystem. Successful proposals will explain how they address issues most relevant to Great Lakes policymakers in a value-adding way or result in practical activities which promise measurable progress to protect the Great Lakes. Projects which include an evaluation of the potential reductions of pollutants in the environment will be favored.

Scientific/Professional Merit: Soundness of approach is a key consideration, including design, objectives, and scientific viability of the project.

Innovativeness: We favor projects which do not duplicate prior efforts or which build upon prior efforts in value-adding ways.

Performance Capability: The experience and resources of applicants should be shown to be appropriate to perform the work proposed. Applicants with existing EPA projects should be up-to-date on reporting and other requirements.

Stakeholders: Plans to work with appropriate partners and customers, for instance government agencies, community groups, businesses, or advisory groups for Lakewide Management and Remedial Action Plans, will be considered.

Geographic Scope: Projects which aim to serve environmental needs identified by Lakewide Management and Remedial Action Plans will be considered on this basis. Support from LaMP and/or RAP committees will be considered.

Dissemination of Results: Plans to disseminate project results will be considered. Broad public dissemination is favored.

Appropriate Budget: Applicants must suggest a budget reasonably in keeping with the level of work proposed and with expected benefits.

Leveraging. We favor projects which leverage additional resources from other organizations.

Availability of Other Funding Sources: Proposals for which funding could reasonably be expected from other sources will receive less consideration.

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws,

regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

Preproposal Components - "Line-by-Line" Instructions

(Tabs refer to data entry in the Preproposal Submission System)

APPLICANT INFORMATION (TAB 1)

Applicant. Enter Applicant (Organization) Name, Contact Person's Title (choose one from the drop-down list), Contact Person's Name, Address, City, State (choose one from the drop-down list), Phone, Fax, and E-mail. For Phone and Fax numbers, enter the 10-digit number without any punctuation, spaces, etc.

Type of Organization. Choose one from a drop-down list including: State; Interstate Agency or Commission; Sub-state or special purpose district; County; Municipality; Federal Agency; College or University; Tribal Organization; Federally funded research and development center; or Other.

PROJECT SUMMARY INFORMATION (TAB 2)

Project Title. No more than 60 characters.

Abstract. One paragraph synopsis which can stand alone as a project description.

Duration. Specify project duration from 0.5 years up to 2 years (select from the spin-box list).

Category. Choose only 1 from a drop-down list including: (i) Contaminated Sediments; (ii) Pollution Prevention and Reduction - BNS; (iii) Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Restoration; (iv) Invasive Species; or (vi) Emerging Issues. *Submission of a single project to multiple categories may adversely affect your chance of success.*

Rank Within Category. Only for multiple preproposals being submitted within the same project category from the same organization. To only be filled in after rank is assigned by the organization's coordinator.

GEOGRAPHIC APPLICABILITY (TAB 3)

Applicable State. Select Great Lakes State(s) which would be most impacted by this project. (Click on appropriate boxes).

Applicable Lake Basin. Identify Lake Basin(s) which would be most impacted by this project. (Click on appropriate boxes.)

Applicable Geographic Initiative. If applicable, identify geographic initiative which would be most impacted by this project. (Click on box for Greater Chicago, Northeast Ohio, NW Indiana, Southeast Michigan, or Lake St. Clair.)

Applicable Areas of Concern. Identify the Areas of Concern affected by the Project. Choose the primary affected Area of Concern from the drop-down list. List any others in the field entitled "Other Affected AOCs".

Applicable Biodiversity Investment Area. *For Habitat Projects Only:* Choose the primary affected Biodiversity Investment Area from the drop-down list. List any others in the field entitled "Other Affected BIAs".

PROBLEM STATEMENT (TAB 4)

Problem Statement. Describe the issue that will be addressed and its relevance to the Great Lakes, particularly to needs and priorities (especially in LaMPs and RAPs) for Lakes, AOCs, and other geographic initiatives.

Proposed Work/Outcome. Outline what will be done and how. Describe anticipated environmental results, referencing affected pollutants, industry sectors, economic impacts, habitats, and/or

species. Habitat projects should include a statement of the number of acres of aquatic, wetland, riverine, and terrestrial Great Lakes habitat to be positively impacted.

PROJECT MILESTONES (TAB 5)

Milestones. Specify milestones and/or final products and projected due dates (Month/Year, in MM/YYYY format). You may describe up to 8 milestones/final products, including Project Start and End. Please be aware that if you submit a full proposal in May, your project could begin in June; however, most usually begin in September or October.

EJ/EDUCATION APPLICABILITY (TAB 6)

Environmental Justice. Check box and include a narrative description if some part of the project addresses "Environmental Justice."

Education/Outreach Component. Check box, if the project includes an education/outreach component. If applicable, describe the target audience and how that group would be impacted by the project in the field entitled "Education/Outreach Description".

PROJECT BUDGET (TAB 7)

Budget. Fill in the applicable budget items in the table to show how GLNPO (Federal) funds and non-Federal matching funds will be used for personnel/salaries, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contract costs, construction, and other costs. You may include a separate line for indirect costs if your organization has in place (or will negotiate) an "indirect cost rate" from a cognizant Federal agency. Budget should represent the total which would be requested from GLNPO for the project's duration (up to two years). Funding will be awarded as a "lump sum" and is not assured for subsequent years. Do not include commas when entering the budget amounts. Totals will be calculated automatically or by pressing "calculate."

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING (TAB 8)

Other Funding. If funds are being pursued or have been committed to your Project by other providers, list the Name of the Providers, Amounts Provided, and Commitments made by each.

COLLABORATION (TAB 9)

Collaboration/Community-based Support. Describe plans and status of collaboration amongst the public, private, and independent sectors. Evidence of support will be required for full proposals.

GLNPO REQUEST FOR PREPROPOSALS

Contaminated Sediments - \$1,400,000*

**Planning Target - subject to change for various reasons, including Congressional and Agency action such as development and approval of annual operating plans.*

GLNPO will provide funding, technical support, and vessel support to assist contaminated sediment work in priority geographic areas in the Great Lakes. GLNPO's emphasis and ultimate objective is to assist in bringing about remediation of contaminated sediments at these sites.

We are particularly interested in the following projects:

- < sediment assessments (chemical, physical, biological) to better map contamination at a site.
- < sediment assessment in areas where subsistence fishing is high.
- < data collection to better understand the relationship between contaminated sediments and fish residues.
- < data collection to support the development of risk/hazard assessments.
- < bench/pilot studies to support remedial efforts.
- < beneficial re-use of sediments, including associated human and ecological risk.
- < assessment of Binational Toxics Strategy Priority Pollutants in Great Lakes sediments.
- < assessment projects to determine benefits/impacts of remediation.
- < on the ground sediment remediation.

Evaluations will also consider the specific needs and priorities of geographic areas within the Great Lakes, particularly those of Lakewide Management Plans and geographic initiatives such as the Remedial Action Plans for Areas of Concern. Projects dealing with the following topics will receive great consideration:

- *Lake Erie and the St. Clair/Lake St. Clair/Detroit River basin.* Projects addressing the chemicals associated with the beneficial use impairments as identified by the Lake Erie LaMP (PCBs, mercury, PAHs, lead, chlordane, dioxins, DDE/DDT, mirex), with priority given to projects involving PCBs and mercury.
- *Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, and Niagara River basins.* Projects which address the critical pollutants as identified in the 1998 Stage I Lake Ontario LaMP and/or the Niagara River Toxics Management Plan and projects that protect or restore habitats within these basins.
- *Lake Michigan basin.* Projects for (i) the possible beneficial reuse of contaminated sediments and (ii) tools and models for public education and involvement in sediment cleanups.
- *Lake Superior basin.* Projects addressing either of the St. Louis River or St. Mary's River Areas Of Concern (AOCs) and their directives to remove impairments of beneficial uses.

Criteria. Project selection criteria include consideration of: (i) Rationale/Relevance/Bias for Action, (ii) Scientific/Professional Merit, (iii) Innovativeness, (iv) Performance Capability, (v) Stakeholders, (vi) Geographic Scope, (vii) Dissemination of Results, (viii) Appropriate Budget, (ix) Leveraging, and (x) Availability of Other Funding Sources. We especially welcome projects which address environmental justice and have community-based support. Applicants with existing GLNPO projects should be up-to-date on reporting and other requirements. Explanations of these general criteria are contained in the Application Instructions.

GLNPO's Preproposal evaluation will seek a balance among sediments activities; however, Preproposals will be prioritized in the following order: (i) on-the-ground cleanup, (ii) remedial design, and (iii) field work and assessment. Evaluations will also consider:

- public outreach component of activity.
- availability and assessment of baseline conditions for remediation proposals.
- likelihood that remedial measures, including enforcement, will result.

Contact: Marc Tuchman (312-353-1369/ tuchman.marc@epa.gov)

GLNPO REQUEST FOR PREPROPOSALS

Pollution Prevention and Reduction/Binational Toxics Strategy

\$670,000*

**Planning Target - subject to change for various reasons, including Congressional and Agency action such as development and approval of annual operating plans.*

GLNPO will provide assistance for pollution prevention, reduction or elimination, with an emphasis on substances which are persistent and toxic, especially those which bioaccumulate, from the Great Lakes basin. Priority will be given to those projects that support the goals of the US-Canada Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy. For reference, this document may be found at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/bns/strategy.html>. The Binational Toxics Strategy establishes reduction challenges for twelve “Level I” persistent toxic substances: alkyl-lead, benzo(a)pyrene [B(a)P], hexachlorobenzene (HCB), dioxins and furans, mercury, octachlorostyrene (OCS), PCBs, and five canceled pesticides (aldrin/dieldrin, chlordane, DDT, mirex, and toxaphene). The US has also identified “Level II” substances for pollution prevention activities: 1,2,3,4-tetrachlorobenzene, 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene, pentachlorobenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, hexachlorocyclohexanes. Although priority will be given to those projects that further BNS environmental goals, Preproposals aiming to prevent the use and release of other pollutants having the potential to significantly impact the Great Lakes ecosystem will also be considered.

We are particularly interested in the following projects:

- < Foster adoption of green technologies.⁵ In this context, green technology involves reducing or eliminating the use or generation of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances - including feedstocks, reagents, solvents, products and byproducts-during design, manufacture and use of chemical products and processes.
- < Source characterization: Assessment of potential sources of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances.
- < Indicators of progress toward virtual elimination of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances.
- < Proper disposal of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances.
- < Foster adoption of innovative products that would reduce the use and release of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances and that are consistent with the principles of EPA’s *Environmentally-Preferable Purchasing Program* (see <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp>).

Evaluations will also consider the specific needs and priorities of geographic areas within the Great Lakes, particularly those of Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) and geographic initiatives such as the Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for Areas of Concern. Reviewers associated with each of the lakes will prioritize pollution reduction or elimination activities targeting critical pollutants and priority toxics identified in the respective LaMP, RAP or other applicable management plan. Projects that can jointly target common goals under the BNS and the LaMPs will be favorably received. Projects dealing with the following topics will receive great consideration:

⁵ The aim of this project is not technology development. We seek projects which advance a developed technology within society, including identification of public policies which would speed the spread of environmentally kind technologies.

- *Lake Erie and St.Clair/Lake St. Clair/Detroit River basins.* Projects addressing the chemicals associated with the beneficial use impairments as identified by the Lake Erie LaMP (PCBs, mercury, PAHs, lead, chlordane, dioxins, DDE/DDT, mirex) with priority given to projects involving PCBs and mercury or which reduce the release of atrazine to the waters of Lake Erie.
- *Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River and Niagara River basins.* Projects addressing pollutants identified in the 1998 Stage I Lake Ontario LaMP, and other persistent, bioaccumulative toxics as well as projects along the Niagara River which address the priority toxics identified in the Niagara River Toxics Management Plan.
- *Lake Michigan basin.* Projects building on or replicating (i) the Cook County, Illinois PCB/Mercury Clean Sweep Partnership Pilot or (ii) the Lake Michigan Forum's Indiana steel mills mercury voluntary reduction agreement.
- *Lake Superior basin.* Projects addressing the chemicals s identified as critical pollutants: PCBs, dioxins, DDT and metabolites, toxaphene, chlordane, aldrin/dieldrin, mercury, hexachlorobenzene and octachlorostyrene, with priority given to projects involving PCBs and dioxins (with special emphasis on burn barrels as a source). Projects which can build on or replicate the PCB/Mercury Clean Sweep Partnership Pilot of Cook County, Illinois.
- *Lake Huron basin.* Pollution prevention efforts are necessary to address the leveling-off of previous declines of toxic contaminants. The Lake Huron Initiative has identified priority pollutants which should receive special attention including PCBs, Chlordane, Dioxin, Mercury. Pollution prevention efforts, along with habitat conservation, will help ensure a sustainable Lake Huron watershed.

Criteria: Project selection criteria include consideration of: (i) Rationale/Relevance/Bias for Action, (ii) Scientific/Professional Merit, (iii) Innovativeness, (iv) Performance Capability, (v) Stakeholders, (vi) Geographic Scope, (vii) Dissemination of Results, (viii) Appropriate Budget, (ix) Leveraging, and (x) Availability of Other Funding Sources. We especially welcome projects which address environmental justice and have community-based support. Applicants with existing GLNPO projects should be up-to-date on reporting and other requirements. Explanations of these general criteria are contained in the Application Instructions.

Projects which include an evaluation of the potential reductions of pollutants in the environment will be favored.

Contacts: Rita Cestaric (312-886-6815/ Cestaric.Rita@epa.gov)/Danielle Green (312-886-7594/
Green.Danielle@epa.gov)

Further information: Please see <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/p2.html>

GLNPO REQUEST FOR PREPROPOSALS

Ecological (Habitat) Protection and Restoration - \$400,000*

**Planning Target - subject to change for various reasons, including Congressional and Agency action such as development and approval of annual operating plans.*

GLNPO will assist its partners by funding activities which demonstrate new and innovative practices and tools for protecting and restoring aquatic, terrestrial, and wetland ecosystems. When developing Preproposals, partners should consider (i) concepts, such as biodiversity investment areas (BIA), discussed in the 1996 and 1998 State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) papers; (ii) the basinwide indicators developed for SOLEC 98; (iii) new ideas generated from projects described in the 1996 GLNPO *Mining Ideas* Report and other projects described on the GLNPO website; and (iv) the 1994 report prepared by The Nature Conservancy and funded in part by USEPA, *The Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Great Lakes: Issues and Opportunities*. (The above documents can be found on the GLNPO web site at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/ecopage.html> or contact Larry Brail at 312-886-7474/ brail.lawrence@epa.gov for copies.)

Projects that are basinwide or regional/local in scale are encouraged. The following guidelines apply:

Basinwide: Basinwide projects are those that have large-scale implications for the Great Lakes ecosystem. It is not sufficient to say the project could be used as a model basinwide - the Preproposal must indicate what will occur basinwide as a result of the demonstration, as well as how this will be accomplished. Suggested topics are:

- < Projects which encourage the improvement of the health of aquatic and biological resources of the Great Lakes basin.
- < Projects which encourage stewardship of public and private property to preserve biodiversity and stimulate ecological as well as economic sustainability.

Regional/Local: Regional or local projects are those that assess ecosystem needs, formulate regional resource management plans, and initiate ecological protection and restoration demonstration projects. Projects may initiate actions consistent with Lakewide Management Plan priorities, Remedial Action Plan priorities, biodiversity investment area needs as outlined in the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (1998) papers, or Tribal priorities. New ideas are encouraged. The following regional priorities should be taken into consideration.

Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, and Niagara River basins: Projects which will assist the Four Parties to address the loss of fish and wildlife habitat use impairment identified in the 1998 Stage I Lake Ontario LaMP. Potential projects include implementation of new habitat protection or restoration projects, evaluation of the success or effectiveness of completed habitat restoration, an inventory of existing natural resources, an inventory of existing restoration/protection/enhancement projects, and on the ground projects which address a gap in existing restoration activities or proposed in partnership with existing restoration/protection/enhancement activities. Projects in the Niagara River and St. Lawrence River drainage basin could address the loss of fish and wildlife habitat, including an inventory of existing resources and on the ground projects to restore/protect/enhance habitat.

Lake Erie and the St. Clair/Lake St. Clair/Detroit River basins. Projects which (i) address the loss of fish and wildlife habitat or (ii) demonstrate innovative technologies for control of pollutant loadings from the watershed.

Lake Huron basin. Projects which (i) support the goals and objectives outlined by the International Alvar Initiative or (ii) demonstrate the connection between coastal marshes and the fishery.

Lake Michigan basin. Projects which (i) identify or demonstrate brownfield to habitat restoration, possibly with attention to establishing native vegetation on steel slag areas, (ii) protect or restore sand dunes with native vegetation, or (iii) protect critical habitats from destruction or degradation, i.e. wetlands.

Lake Superior basin. Projects which (i) address the gaps in species and ecological community inventories, (ii) further resource assessment at a more local level, or (iii) protect or restore biodiversity as a result of innovative techniques and partnerships.

Criteria. Project selection criteria include consideration of: (i) Rationale/Relevance/Bias for Action, (ii) Scientific/Professional Merit, (iii) Innovativeness, (iv) Performance Capability, (v) Stakeholders, (vi) Geographic Scope, (vii) Dissemination of Results, (viii) Appropriate Budget, (ix) Leveraging, and (x) Availability of Other Funding Sources. We especially welcome projects which address environmental justice and have community-based support. Applicants with existing GLNPO projects should be up-to-date on reporting and other requirements. Explanations of these general criteria are contained in the Application Instructions.

GLNPO's Preproposal evaluation will also consider whether the proposed project:

- is located in an area supporting significant biodiversity.
- has biological importance on a regional or global scale.
- could lead to new ways of integrating economic growth with conservation.
- has a capability for replicating success and fostering similar actions elsewhere, creating new partnerships, and testing new techniques or approaches.
- tests new biological management practices and new restoration techniques.
- has potential for identifying and reporting demonstrated environmental results.
- incorporates an education/outreach component.
- positively impacts a significant number of acres of aquatic, wetland, riverine, and terrestrial Great Lakes habitat.

Contact: Karen Rodriguez (312-353-2690/ rodriguez.karen@epa.gov)

Notes: Biodiversity Investment Areas (BIA) are clusters of places that have exceptional biodiversity value. Nearshore terrestrial Biodiversity Investment Areas were identified in the *Land by the Lakes* paper for SOLEC 1996. Identification of similar areas for nearshore aquatic and coastal wetlands will result from SOLEC 1998.

A description of alvars can be found in the SOLEC 1996 paper *Land by the Lakes* (<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec/96/landbylakes/index.htm>).

Please also see the Request for Proposals for a "Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Consortium" for additional ecological protection and restoration funds. The request will be issued in January, 2000.

GLNPO REQUEST FOR PREPROPOSALS

Invasive Species - \$300,000*

**Planning Target - subject to change for various reasons, including Congressional and Agency action such as development and approval of annual operating plans.*

GLNPO will provide assistance to address invasive (non-indigenous) aquatic and terrestrial species in the Great Lakes Basin with an emphasis on prevention. Applicants should note, however, that funding for this category is less certain than that for other categories. There is currently not a specific line item in GLNPO's budget for "Emerging Issues," but this priority is proposed to be funded using Congressionally directed funding.

We are particularly interested in the following projects:

- < development and demonstration of strong and innovative programs (education and outreach, new technology, or biological) to prevent the introduction of new nuisance invasive species (aquatic or terrestrial) into the Great Lakes Basin.
- < development and demonstration of strong and innovative programs to control the spread of invasive species within and from the Great Lakes Basin.
- < identification of the ecological effects the current suite of invasives are having on nutrients and contaminants cycling in the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem.
- < documenting ecological impacts of invasive species on the Great Lakes Basin food web.
- < documenting the economic impacts or potential economic impacts of invasive species already in the Great Lakes Basin.
- < projects which identify chemical, physical, and biological conditions that promote the establishment of invasive species.
- < identification of conditions that allow for the establishment of invasive species.

Criteria. Project selection criteria include consideration of: (i) Rationale/Relevance/Bias for Action, (ii) Scientific/Professional Merit, (iii) Innovativeness, (iv) Performance Capability, (v) Stakeholders, (vi) Geographic Scope, (vii) Dissemination of Results, (viii) Appropriate Budget, (ix) Leveraging, and (x) Availability of Other Funding Sources. We especially welcome projects which address environmental justice and have community-based support. Applicants with existing GLNPO projects should be up-to-date on reporting and other requirements. Explanations of these general criteria are contained in the Application Instructions.

GLNPO's Preproposal evaluation will consider priorities associated with invasive species for geographic areas within the Great Lakes, particularly those of Lakewide Management Plans. However, as funding for this category is limited, emphasis will be placed on projects of Great Lakes Basin-wide applicability. Evaluations will also consider:

- potential for project to benefit the Great Lakes ecosystem.
- transferability across the Great Lakes Basin and beyond.
- potential to advance government and private partnerships and community involvement.

Contact: Marc Tuchman (312-353-1369/ tuchman.marc@epa.gov)

GLNPO REQUEST FOR PREPROPOSALS

Emerging Issues - \$220,000*

**Planning Target - subject to change for various reasons, including Congressional and Agency action such as development and approval of annual operating plans.*

In order to better fulfill its mission under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement for the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, GLNPO is seeking innovative Great Lakes environmental projects which deal with emerging issues of basin-wide strategic importance. Comments from participants in Great Lakes planning meetings and evaluations of the results of previous GLNPO funding processes demonstrate the continued importance of a solicitation of this sort. Prior to last year, important projects which did not fit neatly in the requested categories could not be systematically addressed. Applicants should note, however, that funding for this category is less certain than that for other categories. There is currently not a specific line item in GLNPO's budget for "Emerging Issues," but this priority is proposed to be funded using Congressionally directed funding.

We expect that strategic projects in this area would:

- include efforts in Contaminated Sediments, Pollution Prevention and Reduction, Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Restoration, or Invasive Species which do not meet GLNPO criteria for those areas,
- cut across or overlap two or more of the foregoing areas, or
- address Assessment/Indicators or some other unanticipated area.

We especially encourage projects which identify and propose solutions/mitigation for emerging issues of Great Lakes Basin-wide applicability, particularly if they are being identified through the Lakewide Management Plans and geographic initiatives (such as the Remedial Action Plans for Areas of Concern). Areas of particular interest include:

- < investigating chemicals of potential environmental concern such as polybrominated flame retardants and endocrine disruptors.
- < human health.
- < economic issues.
- < environmental impacts of lower lake levels.

Criteria. Project selection criteria include consideration of: (i) Rationale/Relevance/Bias for Action, (ii) Scientific/Professional Merit, (iii) Innovativeness, (iv) Performance Capability, (v) Stakeholders, (vi) Geographic Scope, (vii) Dissemination of Results, (viii) Appropriate Budget, (ix) Leveraging, and (x) Availability of Other Funding Sources. We especially welcome projects which address environmental justice and have community-based support. Applicants with existing GLNPO projects should be up-to-date on reporting and other requirements. Explanations of these general criteria are contained in the Application Instructions.

As funding for this category is limited, emphasis will be placed on projects of Great Lakes Basin-wide applicability. Evaluations will depend on the type of projects submitted, as well as:

- potential to further the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.
- demonstration of adequate laboratory facilities and instrumentation to complete the proposed work.

Contacts: Paul Horvatin (312-353-3612/ horvatin.paul@epa.gov)/Michael Russ (312-886-4013/ russ.michael@epa.gov)

USEPA CONTACTS FOR GREAT LAKES PRIORITIES

USEPA's role in the Great Lakes is to steer the U.S. Great Lakes effort and to provide timely technical support and assistance, coordinating not only with U.S. partners, but also with Canadian counterparts. Our Great Lakes efforts are thus organized in a nested structure.

- USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) steers and coordinates activities at a Basin-wide level.
- Regional Teams and Programs steer and coordinate activities focusing on four of the five Great Lakes, their AOCs, and other targeted geographic areas. In Region 5, the Regional Teams serve leadership and coordinating roles. They influence funding decisions of USEPA media programs, such as Air, Water, and Waste, as well as National Initiatives, such as Brownfields. They can also help identify funding sources and priorities for LaMPs, RAPs, and other initiatives.
- Coordination and integration of State, Tribal, and Federal environmental programs is intended to be accomplished through Environmental Performance Partnership Agreements. Projects can also be developed outside of that structure.

Contacts for Programs and Teams who can best provide information about their Great Lakes priorities and funding opportunities are listed below. Since evaluations of the GLNPO Preproposals will take into account recommendations on specific needs and priorities of geographic areas within the Great Lakes, particularly those of LaMPs and RAPs, we especially encourage consultations. Note that e-mail addresses use the convention "lastname.firstname@epa.gov".

GLNPO:

- Contaminated Sediments: Marc Tuchman (312-353-1369)
- Pollution Prevention and Reduction: Rita Cestaric (312-886-6815)
- Habitat (Ecological) Protection: Karen Rodriguez (312-353-2690)
- Invasive Species: Marc Tuchman (312-353-1369)
- Emerging Issues: Paul Horvatin (312-353-3612)
- <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/glf.html>.

Water Pollution Control - State and Interstate Program Support.

- Headquarters - Carol Crow (202-260-6742)
- Regional - Gene Wojcik (312-886-0174)

USEPA REGION 2 (INCLUDING NY)

- Fred Luckey (212-637-3805)
- Seth Ausubel (212-637-3793)

USEPA REGION 3 (INCLUDING PA)

- Renee Gruber (215-814-5751)

REGION 5 (INCLUDING IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, AND WI)

"PRIORITY APPROACH" TEAMS

- Sediments: Bonnie Eleder (312-886-4885)
- Toxics Reduction: Dan Hopkins (312-886-5994)
- Ecosystem: John Perrecone (312-353-1149)
- Environmental Justice: Karla Johnson (312-886-5993)

REGION 5 "PRIORITY GEOGRAPHIC/PLACE" TEAMS

- L. Erie: Francine Norling (312-886-0271)
- L. Michigan: Judy Beck (312-353-3849)
- L. Superior: Elizabeth LaPlante (312-353-2694)
- Northeast Ohio: Rich Winklhofer (440-835-5200)
- Greater Chicago: Mardi Klevs (312-353-5490)
- NW Indiana: Sally Swanson (312-353-8512)
- SE Michigan: Laura Lodisio (312-886-7090)

REGION 5 WATER PROGRAM

Coastal Environmental Management (CEM) funds

- Marcia Damato (312-886-0266)

Nonpoint Source Pollution

- Ernesto Lopez (312-886-3017), Karen Bell (312-353-8640) and Tom Davenport (312-886-0209)

AIR PROGRAM

- Region 5 - Carlton Nash (312-886-6030)
- Region 2 - Ron Borsellino (212-637-3705)
- HQ - Dale Evarts (919-541-5535)

SUPERFUND PROGRAM

- Region 5 - James Hahnenberg (312-353-4213)
- www.epa.gov/R5Super/

Brownfields

- Region 5: James Van der Kloot (312-353-3161)
- Region 3: Tom Stolle (215-814-3129)
- Region 2: Larry D'Andrea (212-637-4314)

RCRA HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

- Region 5: Richard Traub (312-353-8319) for general §3011 questions; Mary Setnicar (312-886-0976) for P2, hazardous waste minimization, solid waste management
- Region 3: Paul Gotthold (215-814-3410)
- Region 2: Ray Basso (212-637-4109) and Michael Infurna (212-637-4177)

PESTICIDES/TOXIC SUBSTANCES.

- Region 5: Tony Martig (312-353-2291) for Toxics; Margaret Jones (312-353-5790) for Ag. Clean Sweeps
- Region 3: Donald Lott (215-814-2041) for pesticides, lead, and asbestos ; John Ruggero (215-814-2142) for PCBs and EPCRA
- Region 2: Fred Kozak (908-321-6769) for Pesticides; Dave Greenlaw for Toxics (908-321-6817)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

- Headquarters: Diane Berger/Sheri Jojokian (202-260-8619)
- Region 5: Julie Moriarty (312-353-5789)
- Region 3: Larry Brown (215-814-5527)
- Region 2: Terry Ippolito (212-637-3671)

GREAT LAKES RESEARCH.

- Inhouse research: Steven Bradbury (218-529-5025)
- Science to Achieve Results (STAR) <http://es.epa.gov/ncerqa/>